



General Assembly

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Sixtieth session

Agenda item 112 (e)

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs
and other elections: election of 47 members of
the Human Rights Council**

**Note verbale dated 12 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of
Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat**

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Malaysia has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council at the elections to be held on 9 May 2006.



Annex to the note verbale dated 12 April 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

28 April 2006

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to its note dated 12 April 2006 informing the Secretariat of the candidature of Malaysia to the Human Rights Council, has the honour to enclose herewith an aide-memoire detailing Malaysia's voluntary pledges and commitments in accordance with resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 (see enclosure).

The Permanent Mission of Malaysia highly appreciates the kind assistance of the Secretariat in posting the enclosed aide-memoire on Malaysia's candidature to the Human Rights Council on the General Assembly website.

Enclosure**Malaysia's candidature to the Human Rights Council****Aide-memoire**

1. Malaysia, a member of the Commission on Human Rights prior to its being dissolved, is seeking election to the new Human Rights Council at the elections to be held by the United Nations General Assembly on 9 May 2006.
2. Malaysia, since attaining independence in 1957, upholds the promotion and protection of all human rights as an indispensable aspect in the process of nation-building. Consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, successive Malaysian Governments have made the guarantee of the individual's fundamental rights and liberties, as enshrined in the Constitution, the cornerstone of their policies and programmes, while noting that all individuals have duties and responsibilities to the community to ensure the continued enjoyment of peace, stability and prosperity.
3. The respect that the Malaysian Government has for each individual's rights is clearly manifested in the fact that free, fair and peaceful general elections have been held consistently without fail since independence for the people to elect their representatives to the various branches of Government within the nation's democratic system. Universal suffrage has been a principal feature in each election.
4. Another manifestation of the importance that the Government attaches to the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is the promotion of a free media, including in cyberspace, as well as the encouragement of vibrant and active civil societies.
5. As a nation with a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society, Malaysia is confident that its experience in managing a plural society would bring an important dimension to the work of the new Human Rights Council. Malaysia recognizes that the stability of any multi-ethnic society depends on a spirit of mutual tolerance and respect for diversity which is based on an inclusive and responsive political and legal system, which balances civil and political rights such as the freedom of expression and opinion and the wider needs of such a society.
6. Laws, regulations and institutions related to human rights in Malaysia continue to evolve in step with the increasing aspirations of a democratic society. One of the measures was the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights (SUHAKAM) in 1999. SUHAKAM monitors human rights developments in Malaysia and is entrusted inter alia with powers to investigate complaints regarding alleged human rights violations. Over and above its investigative function, SUHAKAM is also active in promoting a culture of human rights, particularly through education not only in schools but also within Government institutions, such as the police force. SUHAKAM is also involved in activities at the regional and international levels.
7. The increasing threat posed by terrorism worldwide has highlighted the importance of balancing security concerns with the preservation of individual liberties. Malaysia believes that it has achieved this balance, drawing on its experience in combating the armed insurgency by forces aiming to dismantle the democratic government in the early years of its independence. The events of September 11 have also given rise to the misperception that democracy and human

rights are incompatible with Islam and countries in which Islam is the dominant religion. Malaysia's record in this regard disproves this misperception. These achievements would not have been possible if individual rights and freedoms were not respected.

8. Beyond civil and political rights, the Malaysian Government has also sought to fulfil its responsibilities with regard to economic, social and cultural rights. As an example of this commitment, the Malaysian Government has consistently allocated the largest proportion of the annual budget to education. Having achieved many of the goals set out in terms of primary education, the Government is now endeavouring to expand the tertiary education system, not only as a means of strengthening the right to education but also in order to better equip Malaysians to meet the challenges posed by globalization.

9. Malaysia is fully aware that good governance, integrity in the public sector and transparency in the Government's activities are essential if the goals of full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms are to be achieved. Towards this end, the National Integrity Plan was launched on 23 April 2004, which aims, among others, to:

(a) Continuously and effectively combat and reduce the incidence of corruption, malpractices and abuse of power;

(b) Enhance efficiency in the delivery system of the civil service and to reduce unnecessary inefficiencies;

(c) Improve corporate governance and business ethics;

(d) Strengthen the family institution.

10. To ensure that these aims are achieved, the Government formed the Malaysian Integrity Institute, whose functions include:

(a) Undertaking research and conducting training and education pertaining to community and institutional integrity;

(b) Developing a database on ethics and integrity;

(c) Formulating policies to enhance ethics and integrity as well as advising the Government on programmes to enhance integrity;

(d) Continuously monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the Plan.

11. Malaysia will continue to take proactive and innovative measures to further promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country.

12. At the international level, Malaysia has been a member of the Commission on Human Rights for four terms, and was a member of that body for the term 2005-2007 when the Commission on Human Rights was dissolved, to be replaced by the Human Rights Council. As an active and committed member of the Commission, Malaysia has contributed constructively in its deliberations. Malaysia is determined to continue to do so in the work and activities of the newly established Human Rights Council if elected to the membership.

13. Malaysia believes that the new Human Rights Council has an important role to play in the universal promotion and protection of human rights and in ensuring the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights. In order to achieve these lofty goals,

the Human Rights Council needs to be made strong, fair, effective and efficient, and free of acrimony and undue politicization.

14. Towards this end, Malaysia pledges to:

(a) Engage constructively in evolving modalities of work of the Human Rights Council with the aim of making it a strong, fair, effective, efficient and credible vehicle for the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide;

(b) Support the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(c) Continue to participate actively in the norm-setting work of the Human Rights Council;

(d) Work towards fostering a spirit of cooperation in the Human Rights Council, free from acrimony and politicization, based on the principles of mutual respect and dialogue;

(e) Promote greater coherence between the work of the Human Rights Council with other United Nations agencies and actors in achieving internationally agreed targets and goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals and those contained in the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action as well as the Cairo Declaration and Programme of Action;

(f) Actively support international action to advance the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children and the disabled.



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Agenda item 112 (e)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs

**and other elections: election of 47 members of the
Human Rights Council**

**Note verbale dated 2 May 2006 from the Permanent Mission of
South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to convey herewith a note dated 2 May 2006 related to the candidature of South Africa to the Human Rights Council and the aide-memoire outlining South Africa's voluntary pledges and commitments with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).



Annex to the note verbale dated 2 May 2006 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Since its return to the international community in 1995, the South African Government has played an active role within the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. In this short time, South Africa chaired the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1998, and served as a Vice-Chair of the fifty-eighth session in 2002 as well as serving as the human rights coordinator on behalf of the African Group during the fifty-ninth session in 2003. South Africa has also played a cardinal role in the processes that created the Human Rights Council throughout 2005, which culminated in the country's Permanent Representative to New York serving as one of the Co-Chairs and assisting the President of the General Assembly in the creation of the Human Rights Council. Additional to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, South Africa strongly upholds the principle of fulfilment of human rights consistent with the provisions of international human rights law.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations herewith encloses an aide-memoire outlining South Africa's voluntary pledges and commitments with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights as a requirement of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 (see enclosure), and would appreciate the valuable support of the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations at the elections for the Human Rights Council to be held during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly on 9 May 2006.

Enclosure**Aide-memoire in support of South Africa's candidature to the Human Rights Council**

Following the first democratic elections in 1994, South Africa returned to the international community in 1995 to assume its rightful place among the community of nations. The experience in this relatively short period has been richly rewarding and South Africa has played a key role in the shaping of the international human rights agenda, including the constant development of international human rights and humanitarian law. A central consideration in South Africa's foreign policy is the commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the advancement of democracy.

South Africa's Constitution and Bill of Rights

The first democratic elections of 1994 placed South Africa firmly on the path of constitutional democracy. The Republic of South Africa Constitution Act 108 of 1996 is the supreme law of the land. In keeping with the international Bill of Human Rights, the South African Constitution entrenches and constitutionally guarantees all the universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Whereas the South African democracy is relatively young, the heroic struggle by South Africans for democracy, social justice and human rights and fundamental freedoms is very old and extends over a period of 350 years. During this period South Africans were subjected to successive repressive regimes ranging from conquests, colonialism and the worst form of institutionalized racism and racial discrimination, namely, apartheid.

The 1994 democratic elections in South Africa created a political space for all the rights enumerated in the Constitution to be practically enjoyed. In this regard, the political vision of the democratic government in South Africa is predicated on a fundamental principle which affirms the inextricability of economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand, and civil and political rights on the other. Also consistent with the fundamentals of the international human rights law, South Africa strongly upholds the notion of (i) promotion, (ii) protection and (iii) fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. South Africa's human rights value system is founded on this notion. South Africa lodged its National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at the United Nations on 10 December 1998.

The South African Constitutional Court decisions have produced significant judgements and adjudications which underline the justiciability of the economic, social and cultural rights. South African case law is currently being used at the international level to give impetus and momentum to the strengthening of the international human rights instruments dealing with economic, social and cultural rights.

Between 1995 and 2006 South Africa has been a member of the Commission on Human Rights on three occasions. In this period, South Africa chaired the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1998, became a Vice-Chair at the fifty-eighth session in 2002 and acted as a coordinator on human rights issues on behalf of the African group during the fifty-ninth session in 2003.

Institutions supporting South Africa's democracy

National institutions, established in terms of the constitutional provisions to support constitutional democracy in the country, are actively involved in the monitoring of South Africa's compliance with respect to the implementation of international human rights instruments of which South Africa is a party.

The South African Constitution of 1996 makes provision, through its chapter 9, for the establishment of the following State institutions to strengthen constitutional democracy in the Republic of South Africa. These institutions are independent and subject only to the Constitution and Parliament:

Public Protector

South African Human Rights Commission

Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities

Commission for Gender Equality

Auditor-General

Electoral Commission

Undertakings/pledges

It should be underlined that South Africa by its very nature and for historical reasons is among the countries within the United Nations that takes the international human rights agenda very seriously. As a member of the new Human Rights Council, the South African Government undertakes to abide by the following principles:

1. Continue to receive the Special Procedures and Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights (consistent with its decision of 22 October 2002) wishing to visit the country in keeping with their various mandates. Since the issuance of this open invitation, the following mechanisms have visited South Africa without any restrictions or impediments:

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples

Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution

Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on the conditions of prisons and detention in Africa

2. Respect for the integrity and dignity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The South African Government will work to ensure that the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her personnel are above the manipulation and influences of States.

3. Continue contributing financially to OHCHR. Such contributions shall not be in any way earmarked, as the earmarking of funding to OHCHR has a limiting effect on the operations of OHCHR.

4. Continue to support important funds and programmes within OHCHR aimed at advancing the cause of human rights globally, such as the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund for the Victims of the Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the recently established United Nations Democracy Fund.
5. Continue with its unwavering position to advocate for a balanced sustainable development programme within the human rights framework as underlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action as well as General Assembly resolution 48/141. In this regard South Africa will be one of the chief proponents of a balanced agenda of the Human Rights Council which reflects, among others, the primacy of achieving the realization of the right to development as well as moral human rights issues such as the eradication of poverty and underdevelopment. As will be recalled, South Africa hosted the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in November 2002, whose Programme of Action is globally regarded as an instructive document for achieving sustainable development.
6. Work to ensure that one of the first preoccupations of the substantive sessions of the Human Rights Council will be to update the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, through an amendment protocol, placing the right to development on a par with all other rights enumerated in these instruments.
7. Work to promote, within the Human Rights Council, a common understanding that human rights can only be practically enjoyed through an effective partnership with all the relevant stakeholders at all levels.
8. Continue to submit country reports to the human rights treaty monitoring bodies. To this end, South Africa will present its country reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture during 2006. South Africa has also presented, during 2005, its country report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
9. Undertake to submit in the near future a National Action Plan exclusively covering the area of racism and racial discrimination as required by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. As will be recalled, South Africa hosted the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance from 31 August to 8 September 2001.

International instruments to which South Africa is a State party

The South African Government signed most of the international human rights instrument on 10 December 1995, and have since ratified/acceded to the following instruments:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child pornography and child prostitution

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the use of children in armed conflict

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Regional instruments to which South Africa is a State party

South Africa is also a State party to the following regional (African) human rights instruments:

African Charter on Human and People's Rights

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

South Africa has volunteered and is next in line to be peer-reviewed under the African Peer Review Mechanism on the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Commitment to international human rights instruments

South Africans are serving or have served on the following treaty monitoring bodies:

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

African Commission on Human and People's Rights

South Africa plays a key role in advocating the agenda for development through intergovernmental structures of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China.

Instruments in the process of ratification

The South African Government is in the process of ratifying the following important human rights instruments:

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment



**General Assembly
Security Council**

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**General Assembly
Sixtieth session**

Agenda item 14

The situation in the Middle East

**Security Council
Sixty-first year**

**Identical letters dated 4 May 2006 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
and the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a detailed statistical table showing the Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty which occurred during April 2006, i.e., a total of 51 violations (see annex).

These violations are in contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 1655 (2006), and go against your repeated calls for their cessation, most recently in your report of 18 January 2006 (S/2006/26). Lebanon counts on the United Nations to compel Israel to desist from those violations, which constitute a threat to international peace and security, and holds Israel responsible for any consequences to which those acts may give rise.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Caroline **Ziadeh**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the identical letters dated 4 May 2006 from the
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
and the President of the Security Council**

Statistical table showing Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty during April 2006

				<i>Land violations</i>				<i>Total violations</i>
<i>Air violations</i>				<i>Sea violations</i>	<i>Military acts of aggression</i>	<i>Field violations</i>	<i>Breaches</i>	
Military jet	Reconnaissance	Helicopter	Total	Crossing of territorial waters, artillery fire and shooting of flares and firebombs over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of firebombs, dropping of artillery missiles, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory	-
8	9	4	21	11	-	12	7	51

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Agenda item 112 (e)

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections:
election of 47 members of the Human Rights Council**

**Letter dated 20 April 2006 from the Permanent Representative of
Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to extend to you my warm greetings, having recently arrived in this city as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations. I hope to have the opportunity further to enhance the ties of cooperation and friendship existing between the Permanent Mission and the Secretariat which you so capably lead.

This letter relates to the elections for membership in the new Human Rights Council, which are to be held 9 May 2006 in the United Nations General Assembly. We would like to share with you some of the reasons why our country is standing for election to such an important subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.

In this connection please find below a short aide-memoire which we have prepared and distributed for this purpose, after which we will add a few comments further explaining the reasons why we wish to contribute to the promotion, dissemination and defence of universal human values.

**Aide-memoire in support of the candidacy of Honduras for election to
membership in the Human Rights Council**

Honduras recognizes that fundamental human rights are inalienable and inherent to all human beings. Because of their nature, they must be recognized, respected and promoted by everyone, beginning with national and international legal systems.

Everyone must be given fair and equal treatment when universal human values are promoted and defended; this is the only way fully to achieve the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in this area. The Human Rights Council has an important responsibility in that it will be studying and/or adopting resolutions that address specific cases, but which have universal implications.



Honduras has acceded to the international human rights Conventions and has ratified the vast majority of the international instruments on the protection, promotion and defence of the inalienable rights of Honduran men, women and children. All Hondurans have the right to seek a remedy before the National Human Rights Commission, which was established in order to guarantee the rights and freedoms set forth in the Constitution of the Republic and in international treaties and conventions.

Honduras has maintained an open door policy with regard to the human rights institutions. It recently hosted a visit by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, with whom the national authorities worked to arrive at agreements and measures which are currently being adopted, in line with the recommendations contained in the Special Rapporteur's report, with positive results.

Honduras supported the establishment of the Human Rights Council for the purposes and objectives for which it was proposed, to ensure the effective protection of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all the international human rights instruments. We are concerned, however, that developing countries will not have an opportunity to participate in the Council established for this purpose, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. Equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the new Council is essential.

The Executive Office of the National Human Rights Commission of Honduras is the shortest administrative channel for the protection and promotion of human rights, and has therefore been institutionally strengthened since its establishment. The National Human Rights Commission Organization Act, introduced by Decree No. 153-95 of the Congress of the Republic of Honduras, which has been in force since its publication in Official Gazette No. 28,811 of 21 November 1995, governs our activities aimed at better and more effective protection of the human rights of the people of Honduras and of the remedies available to them.

The National Human Rights Commission works in the following key areas:

The "democracy and participation" area, designed to address the situation of political rights such as participatory rights. This broad conception enables us to use a single sector to address, *inter alia*, the right to vote (active suffrage), the right to stand for election (passive suffrage), freedom of association and freedom of expression.

The "security and justice" area deals with those civil rights most closely related to the institutional responsibilities of the criminal justice system; these include the right to life, to physical integrity and to personal liberty, as well as the right to effective legal protection.

The "development and equity" area covers economic, social and cultural rights and solidarity-based human rights. Our understanding in this regard is that poverty reduction and the enjoyment of human rights are not two different endeavours; rather, they are two approaches to the same endeavour and are mutually reinforcing, as pointed out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This is the perspective used in gauging progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, which our country pledged to achieve five years ago.

Honduras, a founding member of the United Nations, has been a member of the current Commission on Human Rights, which will cease to exist in May 2006, for only two years and six months. We have participated in the Commission's work with enthusiasm and dedication, and have sought to ensure that the delicate issues at stake are approached with balance and fairness. On 19 July 2005, we submitted a communication (MH/424/2006) indicating our desire to seek another term on the Commission.

On 22 March 2006, by note No. 160, we reformulated our earlier statement, indicating that we now seek election to the Human Rights Council, given the changes made in the international human rights machinery as a result of the reform process.

* * *

I have the honour to inform you that my country has accepted, without reservation, the jurisdiction of:

- The International Court of Justice;
- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- The International Criminal Court;
- The Central American Court of Justice.

Honduras has ratified and is a party to the following international human rights conventions and instruments:

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The foregoing clearly attests to Honduras's wide-ranging, transparent commitment to strengthening and improving the promotion of these rights. As a developing country, Honduras believes that its example and experience will help to ensure balance in the Council's consideration of the issues brought before it.

Our Government considers that, at the global level, no country should be solely an object of scrutiny by the international community; rather, it should also be an active participant working in an atmosphere of cooperation, which will be essential for the formation of the new Council. The transparency we seek cannot be achieved if we are left on the sidelines or if countries focus on disputing whether others can or should be allowed to participate.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter issued in the official languages of the Organization and circulated to Member States under agenda item 112 (c).

(Signed) Iván **Romero Martínez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

**General Assembly**

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Sixtieth session

Agenda item 112 (f)

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

Letter dated 8 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I am pleased to follow up on my letter dated 17 January 2006 informing you about the decision by the Government of Egypt to present its candidature for one of the seven positions reserved for members of the General Assembly in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission pursuant to paragraph 4 (e) of General Assembly resolution 60/180, adopted on 20 December 2005.

In the light of the decision taken by the General Assembly this afternoon on resolution 60/261, whereby the Assembly decided to allocate two seats for African States from among the seven seats designated for election by the General Assembly, I wish to reiterate and reconfirm the decision by the Government of Egypt to present its candidature for one of the two seats allocated to African States.

As you are aware, Egypt has played a leading role over the past few years in bringing the attention of the international community, particularly the United Nations community, to the institutional gap in addressing post-conflict peacebuilding by calling for a comprehensive and multidimensional approach to "peace" that would necessarily address the root causes of conflicts, especially in Africa, including through measures to support sustainable development and poverty alleviation policies. To this end, Egypt welcomed the proposal for establishing the Peacebuilding Commission and has actively participated, through the African Group and the General Assembly, in the various stages of its substantive and institutional conceptualization, including during the most recent consultations leading to the consensus adoption by the Assembly of resolution 60/261 on election of seven members of the Organizational Committee of the Commission.

The commitment and effort by Egypt in the course of negotiations leading to the creation of this new and highly significant United Nations body stemmed from the fact that it has successfully emerged from over two decades of one of the most difficult and destructive regional conflicts in the world towards recovery, reconstruction and economic development. Meanwhile, following four wars, in



1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973, Egypt is now actively involved in peacemaking efforts in Africa and the Middle East by taking several political initiatives and by providing technical expertise in the areas of negotiations and international law application.

Additionally, Egypt has contributed to the best of its ability to most United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide, particularly in Africa, as well as in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts in the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Similar efforts are ongoing and under way in Burundi, Liberia, Somalia, Iraq and the Palestinian territories. To this end, Egypt has restructured the activities of its long-standing Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa to meet the evolving post-conflict and reconstruction needs of its African sister countries emerging from conflict, particularly in the areas of security sector reform, training, reintegration of former combatants, health, education and infrastructure development, in addition to other measures aimed at avoiding the relapse into conflict by African countries emerging from conflict.

The experience accumulated during the course of emerging from regional armed struggle over the past 30 years, as well as the determination shown through active involvement in various post-conflict situations in Africa and the Middle East, are believed to be important assets for a meaningful contribution to the envisaged activities of the Peacebuilding Commission. As Egypt believes in the essential role of regional partners in supporting international efforts aimed at ensuring sustainable peace in post-conflict situations, it equally believes that the composition of the Peacebuilding Commission, in general and in country-specific formats, must largely be supported by countries with recognized political and technical expertise capable of contributing to building sustainable peace in the countries under consideration.

The Government of Egypt would highly appreciate it if you would have the aforementioned candidature duly noted by the General Assembly in preparation for the upcoming election of seven Member States from the General Assembly to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, and if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Maged **Abdelaziz**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative